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Ministry of Education

TWO NEW SCHOOLS WORTH $35.7 MILLION OPEN IN SURREY

SURREY – Education Minister Shirley Bond joined Surrey school trustees, community leaders, and school staff and students today to officially open Cambridge elementary and Panorama Ridge secondary, two new schools worth a total of $35.7 million.

"These new schools provide students and staff with a safe, up-to-date learning space while respecting B.C.'s natural environment," said Bond. "I'm especially pleased that the school designs include energy-saving features that support government's commitment to reduce B.C.'s greenhouse gas emissions by at least 33 per cent below current levels by 2020."

The schools include a number of design features to keep the buildings lit and cool with the smallest possible environmental impact, among them:

- effective use of natural light
- energy efficient lights
- sensors to keep lights at the lowest required level
- north-facing classrooms for shade
- trees preserved to provide shade
- heat-reflecting roof material

Cambridge elementary was completed at a cost of $8.7 million. The school has room for 80 kindergarten and 400 elementary students.

Panorama Ridge secondary is located on the site of the former Surrey Traditional school and cost almost $27 million. The school has room for 1,100 students. Surrey school board saved considerably on Panorama Ridge by using a design used previously for several other secondary schools, including Fraser Heights, Clayton Heights, Sullivan Heights and Kwantlen Park. Both schools are built to current seismic standards.

"These new schools will help to accommodate Surrey's growing student enrolment," said Dave S. Hayer, MLA Surrey-Tynehead. "Surrey is one of only four districts that project they will have more students next year. These new schools will help relieve pressure on schools in the surrounding area."

"These new schools are a welcome addition in Surrey which is one of the fastest growing cities in Canada," said Kevin Falcon, MLA Surrey-Cloverdale. "Our government worked together with the Surrey school district to make sure that these important new schools were built, and built on time."

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"The Surrey school board is proud of its role in providing such beautiful, yet efficient and functional places to learn and work," said Surrey board chairman Shawn Wilson. "It has been very rewarding and a pleasure to see the great success the students, parents and staff at both Cambridge elementary and Panorama Ridge secondary have already had in establishing such a welcoming environment and dynamic school community within these impressive facilities."

The new schools will benefit the growing school district and the communities in the Cambridge area and Newton area. The Cambridge elementary multipurpose room, gym and gym change area can be separated from the remainder of the school for community use on evenings and weekends.

The Province has invested over $151 million in the Surrey school district since 2001, completing 27 capital projects. During the same period, the Province has also invested $69 million for buses and maintenance projects in the district.

Since 2001, the Province has spent over $1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 32 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovation projects around British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than $2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects.

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